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# HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

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## daily floor report

Thursday, January 16, 1997  
75th Legislature, Number 3  
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House is expected to consider the rules for the 75th Legislature today. A summary of proposed rule changes distributed to the members on Tuesday begins on page 2.

A training session for members on use of their laptop computers and the amendment display system will be held in the House Chamber today at 9 a.m. HRO *Daily Floor Reports* and bill analyses are now available on computer through the Netscape system, which may be accessed on the floor and in members' offices. A printed copy of the *Daily Floor Report* will still be distributed to members on the floor.

Please return your ballot to approve or disapprove the slate of seven members nominated to serve four-year terms on the House Research Organization Steering Committee to the HRO office (E2.180) by 5 p.m. tomorrow.



Henry Cuellar  
Chairman

75-3

## **PROPOSED HOUSE RULE CHANGES**

The proposed changes in the House Rules for the 75th Legislature, distributed to members on Tuesday, would amend the rules used during the 74th Legislature. The proposed changes are summarized below.

### **Speaker's Race Pledge Solicitation Ban**

Members could not solicit written pledges for votes in a speaker's race during the regular session (Rule 1, sec. 18, page 8).

### **Tax Equity Notes**

After determining that a bill or joint resolution would create or impact a state tax or fee, the chair of a standing committee would send the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for preparation of a tax equity note. The LBB would estimate the general effects of the measure on the distribution of tax and fee burdens among individuals and businesses (Rule 4, sec. 34(b)(5), page 64).

### **Fiscal Notes on Senate Amendments and Conference Reports**

The chief clerk would request the LBB to prepare fiscal notes on Senate amendments and conference reports and distribute them to the members. The House could not act on Senate amendments or conference reports, except for the general appropriations bill, until a fiscal note had been prepared and distributed (Rule 2, sec. 1(d)(5); Rule 13, secs. 5(b) and 10(c); pages 13, 156 and 163).

### **Committee Jurisdiction and Procedures**

The jurisdiction of House committees over state agencies would be revised to reflect statutory changes made by the 74th Legislature, such as abolition of the State Treasurer's Office and replacement of the Texas Employment Commission with the Texas Workforce Commission (Rule 3, pages 19-42).

Committee minutes for public hearings would have to include an attachment listing the persons, and the persons or entities they represent, recognized by the chair to address the committee regarding a matter before the committee. The same list would be included as a separate section of each committee report rather than as part of the summary of the committee hearing. The summary of the hearing would also be a separate part of the committee report, rather than having this determined by the discretion of the chief clerk (Rule 4, secs. 18(b) and 32(b)(10), pages 52 and 60).

Subcommittees would consider a bill or resolution in the version originally referred to the full committee. Any amendment or substitute adopted by a committee would be voided when a measure was referred to subcommittee (Rule 4, sec. 48, pages 68-69).

### **End-of-Session Deadlines**

The deadline for second reading consideration of non-local House bills and joint resolutions would be the 122nd day of the session, if the measure appeared on a daily or supplemental calendar; the third reading consideration deadline would still be the 123rd day. A similar change would affect the deadline for considering Senate bills and joint resolutions: The second reading consideration deadline would be the 134th day, if the measure appeared on a daily or supplemental calendar, and the third reading deadline would remain the 135th day (Rule 8, sec. 13(b) and (c), page 132).

Local House bills that appeared on a Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar could be considered on second or third reading no later than the 130th day (Rule 8, sec. 13(a), page 132).

The House could discharge House conferees and concur in Senate amendments on the 138th and 139th days of the session but still could not otherwise act on Senate amendments on those days (Rule 8, sec. 13(e)(3), page 133)..

### **No-Quorum Point of Order**

Two-thirds of the House is the quorum required to conduct business. If the last roll call showed the presence of a quorum, a point of order of “no quorum” would be accepted, and a roll call would be ordered, if the motion was raised more than two hours after the last roll call and seconded by 25 members (Rule 5, sec. 5, pages 74-75).

## **Congratulatory and Memorial Resolutions**

The Rules and Resolutions Committee reports congratulatory and memorial resolutions and also places them on the Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar. Under the proposed change the committee would only have to approve a resolution, by majority vote of the membership, before placing it on the calendar. The committee would not have to report the resolution, which would require a committee report, before placing it on the calendar (Rule 6, sec. 11, page 99).

## **SENATE RULE CHANGES**

The Senate on Tuesday adopted its revised rules for the 75th Legislature, including several changes that will affect House measures.

The Senate's new end-of-session deadlines are similar to those adopted by the House in 1993. No third reading vote may be taken on any bill after the 135th day of a regular session. No vote may be taken for any purpose, other than to correct an error, during the final 24 hours of the session. A four-fifths vote of the senators present is required to suspend this rule (Senate Rule 7.25). Formerly, motions to concur in House amendments and conference reports were eligible to be considered during the final 24 hours.

No bill may be considered during a regular session unless reported from a Senate committee at least 15 days (formerly three days) before final adjournment. This rule may be suspended by a four-fifths vote of the senators present (Senate Rule 7.24(b)).

Conference reports may not be considered during a regular session until 48 hours after a copy has been furnished to the members. However, during the final 72 hours of a regular session most conference reports may be considered 24 hours after distribution. The 48-hour requirement remains in effect for conference reports on the general appropriations bill and tax and reapportionment bills (Senate Rule 12.09). Formerly, most conference reports had to be distributed 24 hours before consideration, but the rule did not apply during the final 48 hours of the session. House rules bar consideration of any conference report until 24 hours after its distribution.

The Senate sponsor of a House measure will be determined by the chair of the committee to which it is referred, in consultation with the House author (Senate Rule 11.15(a)). The House follows the same procedure.